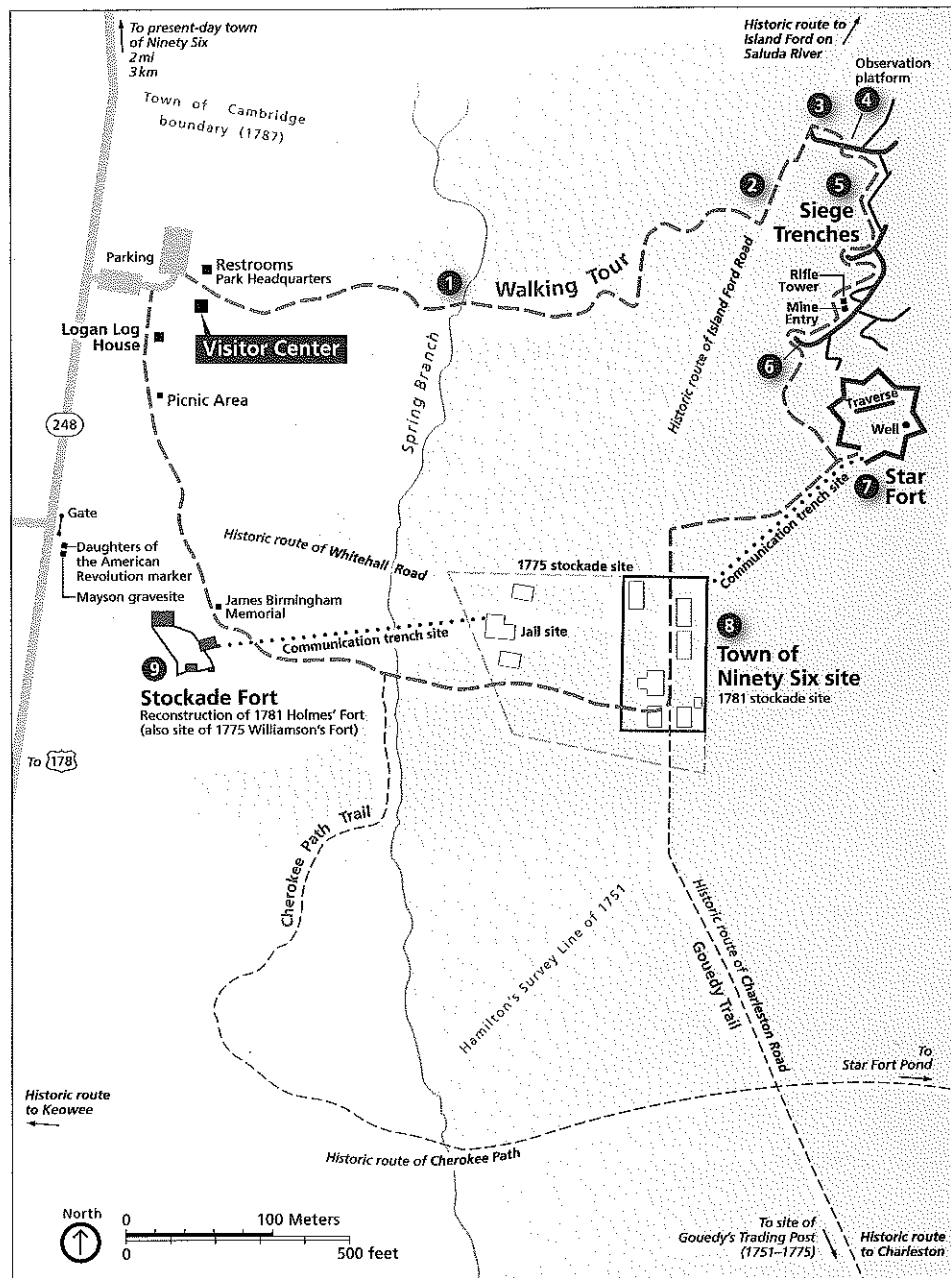


Walking Tour of the Park

The one-mile round-trip trail begins at the visitor center (see map at right).

so they could fire down on the loyalists. This 10-foot tower is a reconstruction.

- 1 **Spring Branch** This stream, free-flowing in 1781, was the loyalists' source of water during the siege.
- 2 **Island Ford Road** You are parallel to a colonial road. Decades of travel cut the road to today's depth. The road crossed Saluda River at Island Ford, seven miles north.
- 3 **Patriot Forces Arrive** General Greene's Continental Army came along Island Ford Road on May 21, 1781.
- 4 **Loyalist Fortifications** Colonel Cruger bolstered Ninety Six by adding stockades, digging ditches around buildings, and building the Star Fort. Slaves did much of the work.
- 5 **Siege Trenches** Colonel Kosciuszko conducted siege operations by the manual: zigzag approach trenches (saps) connected three parallels. From the third parallel sappers dug a six-foot, vertical mine shaft. From its bottom they tunneled toward the Star Fort, planning to blast open the wall so troops could charge inside. The siege ended before the mine was finished. This was the only use of a mine in the American Revolution. Patriots built a 30-foot log rifle tower about 30 yards from the fort,
- 6 **The Attack** Patriots began firing at noon on June 18. Opening the way, 50 patriots rushed into the fort's ditch. Loyalists killed 30. Greene halted the final attack.
- 7 **Star Fort** These earthen mounds are the remains of the Star Fort. During the siege, the walls rose 14 feet above the ditch. Loyalists added the protective traverse and dug a 25-foot well. They found no water, and enslaved workers brought water at night through the communication trench (covered way), four-to five-foot deep ditches that connected the Star Fort, village, and Stockade Fort.
- 8 **Town of Ninety Six** Three roads intersected here. Loyalist troops maintained British links with the Cherokee, trying to suppress the patriots. A two-story brick jail, built here in 1772, housed the jailer on the first floor, prisoners on the second. Another communication trench led to the Stockade Fort.
- 9 **Stockade Fort** Loyalists built a stockade around James Holmes' home to guard the town's water supply. On June 18 Colonel Lee captured the fort but held it only until Greene ended the attack.



1 Tour stop

Walking tour trail (paved)

Other trail (unpaved)

Patriot siege trenches

Loyalist fortifications

Historic structure site

Some historic structures are marked on the ground with colored posts.